HOME SAFETY

- At Home With the Kids
- In Your Garage
- In Your Yard
- In Your Work Shop
- With Your Pets

At Home With the Kids

Not all kids learn the hard way, but they all learn. They learn from what they see, what they hear, and what they experience. How positive that learning is depends on you, their parents and teachers.

Little ones present different challenges than older ones

- **Kitchen stoves and ovens**
- **Toys in walkways and on stairs**
- **Into (under) sinks and garage chemicals and toxic fluids**
- **Playing with matches**
- **Playing with sharp objects**
- **Immune systems not as resistant to infectious disease**
- **Require lots of TLC with firm guidance**

What to do about these?

- **Kitchen stoves and ovens**

  - Buy the stoves with knob adjustments on the back top, out of reach

  - Turn pot/pan handles over stove tops

  - Turn off burners immediately when not in use

- **Toys in walkways and on stairs**

  - Place toy boxes near frequent play areas

  - Teach little ones to pick up when done playing – reward good behavior often, make good on threats of punishment

90% of child injury prevention at

- **Into (under) sinks and garage chemicals and toxic fluids**

  - Install child locks on sink cabinet doors and in other places where cleaners are stored

  - Place garage items on high shelves out of reach

  - Clearly mark all harmful items and teach kids what the marks mean and the consequences of playing with those

- **Playing with matches**

  - Keep out of reach

  - Teach consequences

Always keep promises made to children, good or bad, reward or punishment, firm, but

- **Playing with sharp objects**
  - **Keep shop tools in locked tool boxes and , if possible, keep separate shops locked**
  - **Install child-proof latches on kitchen drawers**
  - **Mount knife sets on walls or on countertops high enough or far enough back to be out of child reach**
  - **Teach older children to use knives and tools properly**
- **Immune systems not as resistant to infectious disease**
  - **Good vitamin regimen**
  - **Avoid known sick homes and friends**

- **Require lots of TLC with firm guidance**
  - **- Children need structure to learn their boundaries**
  - **- They need to be encouraged**
  - **- Little ones don’t understand reasoning yet, but do understand consequences of certain actions on their part**
  - **- Older children understand, but will test their limitations by challenging, either outwardly or subtlety**
  - **- When limitations are set, you must adhere to them just as you expect the kids to…in other words, if you say something will be a consequence and it is not, they win, you lose, they’re in control, not you**
  - **- Never the less, always act with care and**

In Your Garage

This may not be a garage, but your garage should give you pause for thought.

Tools

Automotive

Yard

Chemicals

Automotive

Yard

Storage

In general

Garage Rule #1: No kids under ___ in the garage alone (you set the age limit)

Garage Rule #2: Sharp tools should have blade guards or locks to ensure against accidental opening

- **Automotive Tools**
  - **Keep locked in a tool box in their proper place**
  - **Teach older children proper use**

- **Yard Tools**
  - **Motorized tools should have the spark plugs disconnected**
  - **Store fuels in properly marked containers and ensure children know what happens when improperly used**

- **Automotive chemicals**
  - **Store in closed, locked cabinets**
  - **Ensure expiration dates are current**
  - **Ensure all chemicals are in their proper container**

- **Yard chemicals**
  - **Ensure all chemicals are in their proper container**
  - **Store in closed, locked cabinets**
  - **Ensure expiration dates are current**

Ensure children know poisons & symbols

- **Storage**
  - **Use boxes to store smaller items**
  - **Keep boxes up off the floor, shelving is preferable**
- **In general**
  - **Ensure mouse or rat traps are out of sight and out of walkways**
  - **Ensure general cleanliness to discourage rodents and other critters from making your garage their home**
  - **Use drip pans under cars to prevent slip prone surfaces when cars are not inside**

In Your Yard

Your yard should be attractive to others and enjoyable for you. Little surprises in your yard could be hazardous to your, or your family's, health.

- **Fencing**
- **Plants**
- **Holes**
- **Outside play sets**
- **Toys and other unnatural objects in the yard**
- **Grilling out**
- **In your pool**

- **Fencing**
  - **Ensure repairs are maintained**
  - **Sharps points or edges must be reduced to non-cutting, non-puncturing surfaces**
- **Plants**
  - **Ensure your choice of plants is non-allergenic to you or your family**
  - **Ensure your choice of plants do not attract insects that may be harmful**
  - **Treat plant borders and containments as fencing**

- **Holes - Cover or fill in to prevent trips, falls, or mower upset**

- **Outside play sets**
  - **Anchor securely to ground**
  - **Current and proper maintenance is essential to prevent failure at critical moments**

- **Toys and other unnatural objects in the yard - Inspect yard periodically and keep it cleared of objects and toys to prevent mower destruction and possible throwing injury**

- **Grilling out**

  - Use proper fuels only to start charcoal: no gasoline or JP8

  - When lighting grills, use procedures IAW your owners manual

  - Use “long” matches or butane grill and fireplace lighters

  - Clean your grill after each use to avoid build up of waste foods that could cause illness

  - Grill PMCS is important to prevent accidents, especially with gas grills

  - Know and use proper propane bottle handling procedures

- **In your Pool**

  - If required, be familiar with your pool's chemistry requirements

  - Keep water clear, the bottom visible (always helpful for lost object recovery)

  - Clean the vegetation from surrounding plants frequently to avoid filter blocks or get in children's eyes

  - Keeps toys and non-pool objects clear of the sides close to the water to prevent trip and fall, particularly where children could go in the water unsupervised.

  - Children under _____ (you set the age) do not swim or play in the water alone

  - Absolutely no sharp objects around vinyl pools or vinyl lined pools

In Your Work Shop

While not everyone has a cracked up helicopter to work on in their shop, and some don’t have home shops, almost everyone has an area they call their own to work on little projects around the house.

- **Power tool safety**
- **Respirator use**
- **Paints and varnish**
- **Ventilation**
- **Housekeeping**

- **Power tool safety**
  - **Use manufacturer's installed guards**
  - **Ensure guards are properly adjusted**
  - **Use push boards for close work on table or radial arm saws, planers, joiners, or routers**
  - **Periodic maintenance essential**
- **Respirator use**
  - **For all occasions with fine dust, paints, or solvents**
  - **Ensure proper respirator for the job**
  - **Ensure proper fit**

- **Paints and varnish**

  - Keep covered and properly stored when not in use

  - Do not leave paint solvents open with brushes

  - Keep away from flammable sources

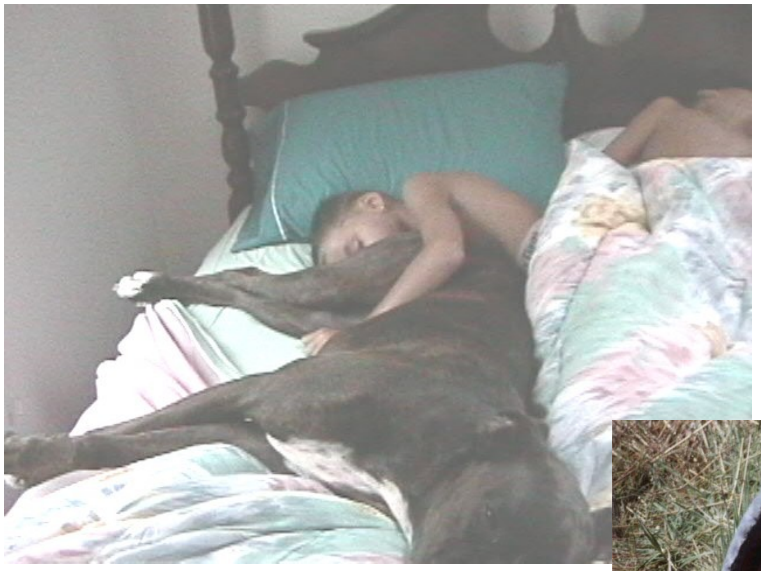
- **Ventilation**

  - Always have proper ventilation when sawing, sanding, painting, varnishing, or using solvents

- **Housekeeping**

  - Cleanliness is essential to prevent trip/fall hazards and ensure fire prevention

With Your Pets



- **Choose your pet wisely**
- **Train your pet appropriately**
- **Keep your pet healthy**
- **Clean your pet**
- **Clean up after your pet**

- **Choose your pet wisely**

  - Ensure your family is not allergic

  - Appropriate species, breed, and sex of pet for your family situation

  All have to do with pet temperament & compatibility with family members

- **Train your pet appropriately**

  - If guarding is your purpose, train to attack only as appropriate

  - Train to be gentle with all people, but particularly children

  - "Potty training" essential for people health

  - Quiet during hours of sleep

- **Keep your pet healthy**
  - **Regular vet visits vital**
  - **Proper diet (usually means no people food)**
  - **Reduce excessive handling**
- **Clean your pet**
  - **Frequent baths for land based pets, or water changes for water based, reduces odors and germs that cause illness**
  - **Proper chew toys promote healthy teeth… or beaks…fins?**
  - **Pedicures prevent paw/claw injury**

- **Clean up after your pet**

  - Keeping cages, pens, or bowls clean promote healthy, happy pets and helps keep family healthy, too.

  - Use proper gloves or other PPE when cleaning

  - Yard cleaning prevents “accidents” and provides clean play areas for children

  - In public areas (away from home) know public laws about picking up pet waste

BE SAFE